

WINDSURF: Water Sport Combines Surfing, Sailing

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Some of the brave beginners might feel a bit intimidated by the size of a windsurfer, but Zenger says only a few lessons will enable even the most chicken-hearted to get hooked on the sport.

"I would estimate the U.S. is about 10 years behind Europe in really catching onto windsurfing. The sport was actually invented in the 1950s in Southern California. But the craze sort of died and the Europeans caught on. Now it's making a comeback in America."

Zenger claims windsurfing is the No. 1 participation sport in the world.

"In Europe I've heard there are more windsurfers than people who snow ski."

Zenger says windsurfing is catching on slower in Utah and other inland states.

Naturally 1,500 miles of coastline might help.

Besides it's not all that cheap either.

Depending on your tastes, a windsurfer (board) can be purchased new for about \$500 to \$600. The prices go as high as \$1,500.

sports in one. It's actually a combination of surfing, sailing and hang-gliding."

Zenger got hooked last summer.

"I'm was an avowed snow skier and really enjoyed scuba diving. Then I tried windsurfing — there's definitely more of a high from windsurfing than the other two."

Another advantage of windsurfing is the easy equipment transportation.

A typical board weighs between 30-50 pounds, depending on the composition of the board and frame and it fits nicely on the top of a car.

Plus, the danger is no more or less than other water sports. In fact, a windsurfer has more control over what happens to himself than a skier being pulled behind a boat or a snow skier racing down a mountain.

But the real high comes from some of the speeds developed with a stiff tailwind. Windsurfers have been clocked as high as 35 mph.

But out there on the water, it's only the wind, the sail and board.

Says Zenger, "if a person can ride a bicycle, he can



Brian Tregaskis Photo

Most windsurfers say they enjoy the exhilaration and thrill of the water sport, even if it means an occasional surprise dip in the water.

The sport was added to the 1984 Summer Olympics as an exhibition, and is fast gaining fame and popularity throughout the world.

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